

Appl. No. : 10/726,256
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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 33, 36, 38, 45 and 74 as follows:

1 – 32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) A packaging assembly comprising:

a first open-sided frame member having first and second free edges,
a second open-sided frame member having third and fourth free edges,
a first retention member extending between the first and second free edges
and comprising a sheet material,

a second retention member extending between the third and fourth free
edges and comprising a sheet material,

~~wherein the first frame member and the first retention member are engaged
with each other to form a first subassembly, wherein the second frame member and
the second retention member are engaged with each other to form a second
subassembly, wherein~~ the first and second frame members ~~being~~ are configured to
nest with each other,

wherein the first frame member comprises first and second wall structures
supporting the first and second free edges, respectively, ~~so as to define and defining~~
first and second open sides between the first and second wall structures,

wherein the second frame member comprises third and fourth wall structures
supporting the third and fourth free edges, respectively, ~~so as to define and defining~~
third and fourth open sides between the third and fourth wall structures,

wherein the first and second free edges are configured to be positioned in the
third and fourth open sides in nesting engagement, respectively, and wherein the
third and fourth free edges are configured to be positioned in the first and second
open sides in nesting engagement, respectively,

~~wherein the first wall structure comprises two side edges generally
perpendicular to the first free edge, wherein the second wall structure comprises
two side edges generally perpendicular to the second free edge, wherein the third
wall structure comprises two side edges generally perpendicular to the third free
edge,~~

wherein the first and second frames are sized such that a distance between

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the side edges of the third wall structure is substantially same with that between one of the side edges of the first wall structure and one of the side edges of the second wall structure when viewed in a direction perpendicular to the third wall structure in nesting engagement.

34. (Original) The assembly according to Claim 33, wherein the first and second retention members are substantially resilient, the first and second frame members being substantially rigid.

35. (Original) The assembly according to Claim 33, wherein the first frame member includes at least a first tapered portion extending from the first free edge.

36. (Currently Amended) A packaging assembly comprising:
a first open-sided frame member having first and second free edges,
a second open-sided frame member having third and fourth free edges,
a first retention member extending between the first and second free edges and comprising a sheet material,
a second retention member extending between the third and fourth free edges and comprising a sheet material,

~~wherein the first frame member and the first retention member are engaged with each other to form a first subassembly, wherein the second frame member and the second retention member are engaged with each other to form a second subassembly, wherein~~ the first and second frame members are being configured to nest with each other,

wherein the first frame member comprises first and second wall structures supporting the first and second free edges, respectively, ~~so as to define and defining~~ first and second open sides between the first and second wall structures,

wherein the second frame member comprises third and fourth wall structures supporting the third and fourth free edges, respectively, ~~so as to define and defining~~ third and fourth open sides between the third and fourth wall structures,

wherein the first and second free edges are configured to be positioned in the third and fourth open sides in nesting engagement, respectively, wherein the third and fourth free edges are configured to be positioned in the first and second open sides in nesting engagement, respectively,

wherein the first wall structure comprises two side edges substantially perpendicular to the first free edge, wherein the first frame member includes at least a first tapered portion extending from the first free edge toward the first side edge, wherein the first tapered portion interconnects and is interposed between the first free edge and the first side edge, and wherein the third wall structure includes at least a first inclined wall extending from the third free edge, the first tapered portion being configured to receive the first inclined wall in nesting engagement.

37. (Original) The assembly according to Claim 33, wherein the first and second free edges extend longitudinally, each of the first and second free edges including tapered portions disposed at opposite longitudinal ends thereof.

38. (Currently Amended) A packaging assembly comprising:

a first open-sided frame member having first and second free edges, a second open-sided frame member having third and fourth free edges,

a first retention member extending between the first and second free edges and comprising a sheet material,

a second retention member extending between the third and fourth free edges and comprising a sheet material,

~~wherein the first frame member and the first retention member are engaged with each other to form a first subassembly, wherein the second frame member and the second retention member are engaged with each other to form a second subassembly, wherein~~ the first and second frame members are being configured to nest with each other,

wherein the first frame member comprises first and second wall structures supporting the first and second free edges, respectively, and defining so as to define first and second open sides between the first and second wall structures,

wherein the second frame member comprises third and fourth wall structures supporting the third and fourth free edges, respectively, and defining so as to define third and fourth open sides between the third and fourth wall structures,

wherein the first and second free edges are configured to be positioned in the third and fourth open sides in nesting engagement, respectively, wherein the third and fourth free edges are configured to be positioned in the first and second open

sides in nesting engagement, respectively,

wherein the first and second free edges extend longitudinally, each of the first and second free edges including tapered portions disposed at opposite longitudinal ends thereof, wherein the first wall structure comprises first and second side edges substantially perpendicular to the first free edge, wherein a first one of the tapered portions extends toward the first side edge and is interposed between the first free edge and the first side edge, and

wherein the third and fourth wall structures comprises third and fourth inclined walls supporting the third and fourth free edges, respectively, the tapered portions being configured to receive the inclined walls in nesting engagement.

39. (Original) The assembly according to Claim 38, wherein at least one of the tapered portions and the inclined walls are configured such that the first and second retention members are deflected inwardly when the tapered portions and the inclined walls are nested.

40. (Original) The assembly according to Claim 39 additionally comprising a first recessed area of the first frame member disposed between the first and second free edges and a second recessed area of the second frame member disposed between the third and fourth free edges.

41. (Original) The assembly according to Claim 40, wherein the first and second retention members are deflected toward the first and second recessed areas, respectively, when the tapered portions and the inclined walls are nested.

42. (Canceled)

43. (Previously Presented) The assembly according to Claim 33, wherein the first and second wall structures comprises first and second peripherally extending structures supporting the first and second free edges, respectively, the third and fourth wall structures comprising third and fourth peripherally extending structures supporting the third and fourth free edges, respectively.

44. (Original) The assembly according to Claim 43, additionally comprising tapered portions formed on the opposite ends of each of the first and second free edges, and at least first and second inclined walls forming a portion of the third and fourth peripherally extending structures, respectively.

45. (Currently Amended) A packaging assembly comprising:
a first open-sided frame member having first and second free edges,
a second open-sided frame member having third and fourth free edges,
a first retention member extending between the first and second free edges
and comprising a sheet material,

a second retention member extending between the third and fourth free
edges and comprising a sheet material,

~~wherein the first frame member and the first retention member are engaged
with each other to form a first subassembly, wherein the second frame member and
the second retention member are engaged with each other to form a second
subassembly, wherein~~ the first and second frame members are being configured to
nest with each other,

wherein the first frame member comprises first and second wall structures
supporting the first and second free edges, respectively, and defining so as to define
first and second open sides between the first and second wall structures,

wherein the second frame member comprises third and fourth wall structures
supporting the third and fourth free edges, respectively, and defining so as to define
third and fourth open sides between the third and fourth wall structures,

wherein the first and second free edges are configured to be positioned in the
third and fourth open sides in nesting engagement, respectively,

wherein the third and fourth free edges are configured to be positioned in the
first and second open sides in nesting engagement, respectively, wherein each of the
first and second peripheral extending structures comprises two walls, wherein one of
the walls inclined with respect to the other of the walls.

wherein the first and second wall structures comprise first and second
peripherally extending structures supporting the first and second free edges,
respectively,

wherein the third and fourth wall structures comprise comprising third and
fourth peripherally extending structures supporting the third and fourth free edges,
respectively, and

wherein the assembly additionally comprises tapered portions formed on the

opposite ends of each of the first and second free edges, and at least first and second inclined walls forming a portion of the third and fourth peripherally extending structures, respectively, and wherein the tapered portions extend along a first angle of inclination, the first and second inclined walls extending along a second angle of inclination that is approximately equal to the first angle of inclination.

46. (Original) The assembly according to Claim 44, wherein the first, second, third, and fourth peripherally extending structures are triangular in cross section.

47 - 73. (Canceled)

74. (Currently Amended) A packaging assembly comprising a first frame member having first and second free edges, a second frame member having third and fourth free edges, a first retention sleeve surrounding the first frame member and comprising a first retention portion which extends between the first and second free edges, a second retention sleeve surrounding the second frame member and comprising a second retention portion which extends between the third and fourth free edges, the first and second frame members being configured to be assembled such that an article is located between the first retention portion and the second retention portion~~nest with each other~~.

75. (Previously Presented) The assembly according to Claim 74, wherein the first and second retention portions are substantially resilient, the first and second frame members being substantially rigid.

76. (Previously Presented) The assembly according to Claim 74, wherein the first frame member includes at least a first tapered portion extending from the first free edge.

77. (Previously Presented) The assembly according to Claim 74, wherein the first frame member includes at least a first tapered portion extending from the first free edge, and wherein the second frame member includes at least a first inclined wall extending from the third free edge, the first tapered portion being configured to receive the first inclined wall in nesting engagement.

78. (Previously Presented) The assembly according to Claim 74, wherein the first and second free edges extend longitudinally, each of the first and second free edges including tapered portions disposed at opposite longitudinal ends thereof.

79. (Previously Presented) The assembly according to Claim 74, wherein the first and second free edges extend longitudinally, each of the first and second free edges

including tapered portions disposed at opposite longitudinal ends thereof, and wherein the assembly additionally comprises third and fourth inclined walls supporting the third and fourth free edges, respectively, the tapered portions being configured to receive the inclined walls in nesting engagement.

80. (Previously Presented) The assembly according to Claim 79, wherein at least one of the tapered portions and the inclined walls are configured such that the first and second retention portions are deflected inwardly when the tapered portions and the inclined walls are nested.

81. (Previously Presented) The assembly according to Claim 80, additionally comprising a first recessed area of the first frame member disposed between the first and second free edges and a second recessed area of the second frame member disposed between the third and fourth free edges.

82. (Previously Presented) The assembly according to Claim 81, wherein the first and second retention portions are deflected toward the first and second recessed areas, respectively, when the tapered portions and the inclined walls are nested.

83. (Previously Presented) The assembly according to Claim 74, wherein the first frame member comprises first and second peripherally extending structures supporting the first and second free edges, respectively, the second frame member comprising third and fourth peripherally extending structures supporting the third and fourth free edges, respectively.

84. (Previously Presented) The assembly according to Claim 83, additionally comprising tapered portions formed on the opposite ends of each of the first and second free edges, and at least first and second inclined walls forming a portion of the third and fourth peripherally extending structures, respectively.

85. (Previously Presented) The assembly according to Claim 84, wherein the tapered portions extend along a first angle of inclination, the first and second inclined walls extending along a second angle of inclination that is approximately equal to the first angle of inclination.

86. (Previously Presented) The assembly according to Claim 84, wherein the first, second, third, and fourth peripherally extending structures are triangular in cross section.